

the waters and confidential draft registration submissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2348. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure reliable air service to American Samoa; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. Res. 381. A resolution designating the week of January 21 through January 27, 2018, as “National School Choice Week”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 382. A resolution supporting the contributions of Catholic schools; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. NELSON):

S. Res. 383. A resolution expressing support for the designation of a “Women’s Health Research Day”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 518

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 518, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for technical assistance for small treatment works.

S. 545

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 545, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 786

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 786, a bill to establish a grant program relating to the prevention of student and student athlete opioid misuse.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1361, a bill to amend title XVIII of the

Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 1719

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1719, a bill to eliminate duties on imports of recreational performance outerwear, to establish the Sustainable Textile and Apparel Research Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1922

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1922, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect paincapable unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. 2008

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2008, a bill to combat the opioid epidemic and drug sample backlogs.

S. 2065

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2065, a bill to establish a demonstration program to provide integrated care for Medicare beneficiaries with end-stage renal disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2121

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2121, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require reporting of certain data by providers and suppliers of air ambulance services for purposes of reforming reimbursements for such services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2174

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2174, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the Veterans Crisis Line.

S. 2311

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2311, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect paincapable unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 376

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 376, a resolution urging the Governments of Burma and Bangladesh to ensure the safe, dignified, voluntary, and sustainable return of the Rohingya refugees who have been displaced by the campaign of ethnic cleansing conducted by the Burmese military.

S. RES. 377

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 377, a resolution recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2018, as “Military Retiree Appreciation Day”, and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 2344. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize additional visas for well-educated aliens to live and work in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the pressing need to reform our high-skilled immigration system. This is an issue I’ve championed for a number of years and one that becomes only more urgent with each passing season.

It is also an issue that I believe ties in directly with the recent discussions we have been having about merit-based immigration. As I said on the floor last week, high-skilled immigration is merit-based immigration. It is immigration targeted at the best, the brightest, and the most highly educated. It is immigration targeted at individuals who have the skills employers need. If we want to have a discussion about individuals who will add value to our economy, who will bring critical skills to the table, and who will help keep our country competitive, high-skilled immigration is what we should be talking about.

For years, we have had a system for bringing high-skilled workers from other countries to the United States to fill jobs for which there is a shortage of American labor. This system does not replace American jobs. Rather, it supplements our workforce with talent from other countries in industries where there are simply not enough qualified American workers to meet demand.

But the system is badly out of date. To begin with, it caps the number of high-skilled worker visas—also called H-1B visas—that employers can obtain each year at a number that is far below demand. This year, just like last year and the year before, USCIS reached the annual cap on H-1B visas within the first week that visa petitions could be submitted. In fact, during that single week, USCIS received over twice as many visa petitions as there were available visas.